

**PRESS RELEASE \* PRESS RELEASE \* PRESS RELEASE \* PRESS RELEASE**

**December 2007**  
**For immediate release**  
**From LoganArts Management**

**RACHEL PODGER & GARY COOPER**

baroque violin & fortepiano

*"rightly been showered with critical acclaim and awards for this series ....  
exquisite care for detail, beguiling phrasing and panache."*

**The Sunday Times**

The partnership of violinist **Rachel Podger** and keyboard player **Gary Cooper** has taken them worldwide in concert. Their venture to record, for Channel Classics, the Complete Mozart Sonatas for Keyboard & Violin, has already been universally acclaimed. The first four volumes have been showered with awards and accolades, including three *Diapason d'Or* and *Gramophone Editor's Choice*. Gary and Rachel are celebrating the release of Volume 5 with this long-awaited Wigmore Hall showcase of the series.

- **Mozart : Sonatas for Keyboard and Violin**
- **Wigmore Hall, London**
- **Friday 1st February, 2008, 7.30pm**
- **Rachel Podger and Gary Cooper launch volume 5 of acclaimed Mozart cycle with Wigmore Hall showcase for Channel Classics (volume 5 of the projected 8 disc set)**
- **3 Diapason d'Or and 2 Gramophone Editors Choice for volumes 1 – 4**
- **CD signing**
- **The Programme :**
  - Mozart Violin Sonata in F K. 377
  - Mozart Violin Sonata in E minor K. 304
  - Mozart Violin Sonata in Bb K. 454
  - Mozart Violin Sonata in F K. 30
  - Mozart Six Variations in G minor 'Hélas, j'ai perdu mon amant' K. 374b
  - Mozart Violin Sonata in A K. 526
- **The Instruments :**
  - Gary Cooper's Fortepiano: Anton Walter, Vienna 1795 copy by Derek Adlam, 1987
  - Rachel Podger's Violin : Pesarinius, Genoa 1739, Classical bow - Pierre Patigny, 2001.

*Suffering from Mozart fatigue from last year's centenary wallow? Listen to Podger and Cooper and rejuvenation is immediate. The fourth CD in their keyboard and violin cycle criss-crosses between sonatas early and late. Pianos can be dull dogs, but not in Gary Coopers' case – he is nimble and expressive. And nothing is beyond Rachel Podger's gut-string violin, not even silky delicacy. "Magnificent Mozart playing from a terrific duo."*

**The Times**

**Presentation:** LoganArts Management in collaboration with Moens Artist Management and Channel Classics Records.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

*Podger has shown increasing mastery of a truly Classical style. Her playing has all the poise and elegance ...  
Cooper's fortepianism has been consistently superb in this series.  
This series is turning into a must-have for Mozarteans.*

### **International Record Review**

## **RACHEL PODGER**

*"Rachel is a wonder... she engages with this music as if she were Bach's playmate" (Albuquerque Journal).*

In recording these Mozart Sonatas, a paradox quickly became apparent. I feel Mozart's music is aimed at the heart. Approaching his music instinctively comes most naturally to me: it seems so effortlessly composed, and communicates to us directly. After all, why do children react so positively to this music of the heart? And yet I also found my experience of Performance Practice in Baroque music helped me find a way of understanding and appreciating Mozart's style. The inclusion of early, middle and late Sonatas ... conveys a balanced survey of Mozart's music for violin and keyboard. Each Sonata stands out clearly in its own right, revealing a snapshot in time of his developing personality. This is an ongoing voyage of discovery for me, and I feel I am only at the beginning.

**Rachel Podger**

Rachel Podger was educated in Germany and in England at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where she studied with David Takeno and Michaela Combetti. She co-founded The Palladian Ensemble and Florilegium, two highly acclaimed baroque chamber groups, with whom she made many recordings. From 1997 to 2002 she was leader of The English Concert with whom she toured throughout the world, often as concerto soloist. As of 2004, Rachel is guest director of The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, with whom she has toured throughout Europe and the USA. As a guest director, Rachel has also collaborated with Arte dei Suonatori (Poland), Musica Angelica (USA), the European Union Baroque Orchestra, and as soloist with The Academy of Ancient Music.

As a recitalist Rachel enjoys a busy career; she has toured extensively as soloist and with Gary Cooper on keyboard, in North America, Europe, Japan and Korea.

Rachel's first solo recordings (for Channel Classics), of J.S.Bach's Sonatas and Partitas, were released in 1999 to great critical acclaim. These discs were followed, in 2001, by Bach's Sonatas for Violin and Harpsichord with Trevor Pinnock. Both recordings were awarded first place by the BBC's 'Building a Library' programme. Rachel's recording of Telemann's Twelve Fantasies for Solo Violin won the prestigious 'Diapason d'Or' and was listed in the BBC Music Magazine's 'top 20' classical CDs of 2002. Rachel's 2003 recording of Vivaldi's 12 violin concertos 'La Stravaganza' also received the 'Diapason d'Or' and was awarded the 2003 Gramophone award for Best Baroque Instrumental recording as well as being runner-up for the overall Record of the Year. In 2004 she embarked upon a recording the complete Mozart Sonatas for Violin and Keyboard with Gary Cooper. The first four volumes have enjoyed critical acclaim, including 'Editor's Choice' of Gramophone and three 'Diapason d'Ors'.

Rachel is visiting Professor of Baroque Violin and Fellow at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and she teaches at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and at the Royal Academy of Music Copenhagen. Rachel Podger is honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music, London.

Rachel Podger's Violin : Pesarinius, Genoa 1739, Classical bow - Pierre Patigny, 2001.

Rachel Podger appears by arrangement with Moens Artist Management

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**GARY COOPER**

*"... music-making rarely comes as impressive as this ..." The Times*

Rachel & I have loved every minute of exploring Mozart's wonderfully rich & varied sonatas for keyboard & violin - sonatas which represent so many of the key moments in the composer's life & development, from precocious talent age 7, on a Grand Tour of Europe, to 32 year old troubled genius, completing his last three symphonies.

Through this cycle of works, spanning almost his entire career, we are reminded afresh of the extraordinary talent hitting Paris and London in 1764; of something new & profound in his writing, arising out of the death of his mother in 1778; and, at the height of his powers in the Vienna of the 1780s, chamber music which quite simply takes the breath away.

**Gary Cooper**

**Gary Cooper** studied at Chetham's School of Music, the John Loosemore Centre & at New College, Oxford. He is now established as one of the foremost ambassadors of the harpsichord and fortepiano - in particular, as an interpreter of Bach's & Mozart's keyboard music - and as a director of period performances.

Since making his solo Wigmore Hall debut, performing the complete Well-Tempered Clavier, he has since given performances of both the WTC, and the Goldberg Variations at venues throughout Europe, N. America & Asia. Gary has made countless recordings, for radio, TV & on disc, including an award-winning CD of Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, which was chosen as Sunday Times Classical Record of the Year, 2000. He was specially invited to perform at the 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Concert for Sir William Lyne at the Wigmore Hall - performing solo and appearing with Andreas Scholl and Angelika Kirschlager.

His duo partnership with baroque violinist Rachel Podger has taken them worldwide in concert, and includes a universally acclaimed venture to record, on the Channel Classics label, the Complete Sonatas for Keyboard & Violin by Mozart, four volumes of which are already released. Showered with awards and accolades, including three Diapason d'Or and Gramophone Editor's Choices, Gary and Rachel will celebrate the release of Volume 5 with a long awaited Wigmore Hall showcase of the series in February 2008. Future plans include tours throughout Europe and North America.

Gary is also an established conductor, having worked with many ensembles - recently performing Mozart Piano Concertos with the Mozart Festival Orchestra, and with English Touring Opera conducting Handel's Alcina and Mozart's Die Entführung aus dem Seraglio, both on tour around the UK. He conducted a new production Handel's Orlando at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London, which he will record, and tour to the Prague Spring Festival in 2009. He also directed the Akademie für Alte Musik in Berlin, the Irish Baroque Orchestra in Dublin, and directed a production of Lampe's Dragon of Wantley to great acclaim at the 2007 Potsdam Festival.

Gary also made his debut directing the new Belgian period instrument ensemble, B'Rock, in Germany & the Low Countries resulting in an invitation to return for a three year position to direct orchestral and opera productions, recordings, is guest artistic director of a new festival in Bruges and will appear at major festivals such as the Flanders Festival and the Bruges Early music Festival.

Gary is also returning to North America for two special projects of Handel arias and Bach concerti with the leading Canadian period instrument ensemble Arion in Montreal with its artistic director Claire Guimond.

Gary recently performed all of Mozart's Piano Sonatas in concert for the Tudeley Festival and, this coming year, he will be performing various recital programmes throughout the UK & Europe, including Beethoven's Diabelli

Variations, Scarlatti Sonatas & music from the London Piano School; releasing a recording of Mozart's Variations on a Viennese piano c.1785 (Channel Classics), with Beethoven's Diabelli, Haydn, Brahms and the Goldberg Variations to follow. He is also setting up a new period instrument ensemble.

Gary currently teaches harpsichord & fortepiano at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Birmingham Conservatoire and at York University, and has recently been appointed visiting professor of fortepiano at the Royal College of Music.

Gary was named "Best Newcomer in Classical Music, 2001" in the Times. He has been dubbed "a rising star in early music" (Observer), "something of a genius" (Times), and the Sunday Times recently declared of his solo playing, "music-making rarely comes as impressive as this".

Gary Cooper's Fortepiano: Anton Walter, Vienna 1795 copy by Derek Adlam, 1987

Gary Cooper appears by arrangement with LoganArts Management

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**CHANNEL CLASSICS**  
**W.A.MOZART**  
**THE COMPLETE SONATAS FOR KEYBOARD AND VIOLIN**

**Volume 5**

Channel Classics 25607

SACD/hybrid pcm, stereo, multichannel

***Sonata in A, KV 305 [293d]***

*Allegro di molto, Thema: Andante grazioso*

***Sonata in C KV 403 [385c] (completed by Maximilian Stadler)***

*Allegro moderato Andante Allegretto*

***Sonata in Bb KV 31***

*Allegro Tempo di Menuetto*

***Sonata in D KV306 [300L]***

*Allegro con spirito Andantino cantabile Allegretto*

*Two excellent players find a glorious freedom in Mozart period performance.*

**Gramophone**

*Both players are charmingly elegant in the minuet-based finales.... Their account of the first movement of K526 is best of all, incorporating some delightful repartee*

**The Strad**

**Volume 4**

Diapason d'Or

Channel Classics, 24607

*Sonata in Eb, K.302 (293b), Sonata in G, K.9, Sonata in e minor, K.304 (300c), Sonata in D, K.29, Sonata in A, K.526*

**Volume 3**

Gramophone Editors Choice

Channel Classics, 23606

*Sonata in Bb, K.454, Sonata in C, K.28, Andante & Fuge in a, K.402 (385e), Andante & Allegretto in C, K.404 (385d), Sonata in Bb, K.8, Sonata in Eb, K.380 (374f)*

**Volume 2**

Diapason d'Or

Channel Classics, 22805

*Sonata in C Major KV 303 (293c), Sonata in D Major KV 7, Sonata in G Major KV 301 (293a), Sonata in F Major, KV 30, Sonata in E flat Major KV 481*

**Volume 1**

Editors Choice Gramophone diapason d'Or

Channel Classics, 21804

*Sonata in G Major KV 379 Sonata in C Major KV 6 Sonata in F Major KV 547 Sonata in flat Major KV 378*

Production

Producer

Channel Classics Records by; Jared Sacks, recording engineer, editing

Jonathan Freeman-Attwood

## **INFORMATION & CONTACTS**

### **Notes :**

- Concert Promoted by LoganArts Management, [www.loganartsmanagement.com](http://www.loganartsmanagement.com)
- Gary Cooper appears by arrangement with LoganArts Management, [www.loganartsmanagement.com](http://www.loganartsmanagement.com)
- Rachel Podger appears by arrangement with Moens Artist Management, [www.moens-artists.nl](http://www.moens-artists.nl)
- Recordings relating to the Mozart Series released by Channel Classics, [www.channelclassics.com](http://www.channelclassics.com)

### **For concert promotions, further information, interviews and press images contact :**

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**LOGANARTS MANAGEMENT**  
Details as above

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##### **for Channel Classics distribution**

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#### **For Wigmore Hall**

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W : [www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk)

#### **For concert tickets :**

The Wigmore Hall Trust  
36 Wigmore Street London W1U 2BP  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7935 2141  
W : [www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk)

**Tickets : £12 £16 £22 £24**

##### **How to Book**

##### **In person**

7 days a week; 10am – 8.30pm. Days without an evening concert 10am – 5pm. No advanced booking in the half hour prior to a concert.

**Telephone** 020 7935 2141.

7 days a week; 10am – 7pm. Days without an evening concert; 10am – 5pm. There is a £1.50 administration fee for all telephone bookings which includes the return of your tickets by first class post.

**Online** [www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk).

7 days a week; 24 hours a day. There is a 50p administration fee for online bookings, which includes the return of your tickets by first class post. All major credit cards are accepted online.

**Date : December 2007  
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